

The Offensive Christ

Intro:

- A. Modern world is offended at Christ and His teaching - the method of study we will examine today is to examine why Christ is so offensive!
 - 1. Bible is banned in 24 countries today
 - a. Regardless of this 84 million are printed every year
 - 2. In the work place - start to talk about Christ and your discussion becomes uncomfortable.
- B. The definition of offensive is ---
- C. The fact that the Scriptures teach that Christ is going to be a stumbling block is clearly seen in....**Isa 8:14; Romans 9:33; 1 Pet 2:8**
 - 1. **Isaiah 8:14** (NKJV) ---- 14 He will be as a sanctuary, But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense To both the houses of Israel, As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
 - 2. **Romans 9:33** (NKJV) ---- 33 As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."
 - 3. **1 Peter 2:8** (NKJV) ---- 8 and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

Body:

II. **Christ was offensive to the then known world at His Birth**

- A. **Not all were offended** - Angels pronounced His birth - **Matthew 1** - Joseph
 - 1. Shepherds, Wise Men
- B. **Herod was offended**
 - 1. Sought to destroy the baby boy
 - 2. Challenged his political career

III. **He was offensive in his manner of life - which includes His life of poverty.**

- A. **Not all were offended** by His life - the people sought Him out
 - 1. They were looking for a King - but Christ was unwilling
- B. **Religious leaders and Jews were offended**
 - 1. Mixed with Tax collectors
 - 2. Sinners
 - 3. Even one of his own
 - a. **Poor will always be with you**
 - b. Sold Him for 30 pieces of silver - slaves price

IV. **He is offensive to some because of His humiliation and death.**

- A. Islam looks at Christ as a weakling because He allowed himself to be put to death.
 - 1. To them they are offended by this weakness
 - 2. Religious leaders scoffed at Him on the Cross
 - 3. His disciples fled
- B. But His mother and John looked on his suffering

V. **Many are offended by his Kingdom, Authority and Doctrine**

- A. It is not a social Kingdom - looking to right all the ills of the World physically
 - 1. People are looking for food for the tummy and not the spiritual bread of life
 - 2. Looking for handouts in welfare programs
 - 3. Entertainment for the youth to keep them off the streets

- B. The don't like the Word of God as an Authority
 - 1. Some want to be the authority - seek the position because of material gain
 - a. In the religious world - to be the pastor or Pope ect
 - 2. In the church - want to be an elder for all the wrong reasons
 - a. Even appoint men because they are good business men ect.
- C. Don't like to be told by the King what to how and how to do it.
 - 1. Want to be a law unto themselves - "not in man to direct his steps" ---
 - a. **Want to worship** the way they want
 - (1) **Instrumental music**
 - (a)
 - i)
 - (2) Plays ect
 - b. **Want to be saved** the way they want
 - (1) Don't tell me that I need to be baptized.
 - c. My **feeling and my emotions** are to be considered.
 - 2. Don't tell me that I need to sacrifice anything to be a Christian
 - a. Money
 - b. Time

VI. **Conclusion:**

- A. Christ is too Simple for many!
- B. What about yourself - are you offended by Christ?